

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02673 101038Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /075 W

-----101040Z 017200 /13

O R 100950Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7953

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA, UR

SUBJ: PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY QUOTES BREZHNEV ON PLO AT GENEVA

1. THE SAUDI ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS (BUT NOT YET THE ARABIC)  
ON APRIL 10 CARRIES A REUTERS ITEM DATED APRIL 9  
TO THE EFFECT THAT BREZHNEV TOLD ARAFAT THAT THE USSR WOULD  
REFUSE TO ATTEND A RENEWED GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE FROM THE OUTSET  
IF THE PALESTINIANS DID NOT TAKE PART ON EQUAL TERMS.

2. THE REUTERS DISPATCH GIVES FOR THE SOURCE OF ITS INFORMATION  
A PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY (Wafa) DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW.  
FOLLOWING ARE THE PERTINENT PARTS OF THE Wafa DISPATCH AS  
QUOTED BY REUTERS:

"MR BREZHNEV CONFIRMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL STAND  
AGAINST ANY SETTLEMENT WHICH DOES NOT TAKE THE RIGHTS OF  
THE PALESTINIANS INTO CONSIDERATION, ESPECIALLY THEIR RIGHT  
OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN STATE,"

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Wafa SAID.

IT ADDED: "HE CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT THE SOVIET UNION  
REFUSES TO ATTEND ANY MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE FROM THE  
BEGINNING IF THE PLO DOES NOT ATTEND ON EQUAL TERMS WITH  
ALL PARTIES."

3. WOULD APPRECIATE THE COMMENTS OF EMBASSY MOSCOW AND THE

DEPARTMENT ON THIS BREZHNEV POSITION WHICH, IF ACCURATELY REPORTED, STRIKES US AS A MAJOR SOVIET POLICY SWITCH ON THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR'S REQUESTED HIGH LEVEL APPOINTMENTS DURING WHICH THIS SUBJECT LIKELY ARISE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ANY COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. WE NOTE THAT THE Wafa ARTICLE IN THE ENGLISH VERSION REPORTED HERE HAS THE USSR REFUSING TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE "FROM THE BEGINNING" UNLESS THE PALESTINIANS ARE REPRESENTED. THIS COULD HAVE QUITE A DIFFERENT SENSE THAN REFUSING TO ATTEND UNLESS THE PALESTINIANS ARE REPRESENTED "FROM THE BEGINNING". COULD Wafa HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY ATTEMPTING TO SOW CONFUSION BY USING THE "FROM THE BEGINNING" FORMULATION WHICH THE SOVIETS ONCE EMPLOYED IN A POSITION THEY SUBSEQUENTLY ABANDONED? PORTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009